

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A method of producing a fluoropolymer by which a melt-processable fluoropolymer (A) having a specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) is subjected to melt-kneading in a kneader comprising a stabilization treatment zone to thereby produce a fluoropolymer (B) resulting from conversion of said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) to $\text{-CF}_2\text{H}$,

said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) comprising alkoxycarbonyl groups, fluoroalkoxycarbonyl groups and/or carboxyl group quaternary nitrogen compound salts,

the melt-kneading being carried out in the absence or presence of an alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element,

the mass of said alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element being not greater than 2 ppm of the composition under melt-kneading, and

the melt-kneading in said stabilization treatment zone being carried out in the presence of water.

2. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the melt-kneading in the stabilization treatment zone is carried out in the presence of oxygen gas.

3. (currently amended): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1
~~or 2~~,
wherein the kneader is a screw-type extruder.

4. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 3,
wherein the screw-type extruder is a twin-screw extruder.

5. (currently amended): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim
~~1 any of Claims 1 to 4~~,
wherein the temperature in the stabilization treatment zone is set at 280 to 430°C.

6. (currently amended): A fluoropolymer obtained by the method of producing a
fluoropolymer according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~.

7. (original): A fluoro-polymerised material comprising a fluoropolymer,
wherein said fluoropolymer comprises (1) a fluorocopolymer derived from at least one
fluoromonomer selected from the group consisting of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene,
vinylidene fluoride and chlorotrifluoroethylene, (2) a chlorotrifluoroethylene homopolymer
and/or (3) a vinylidene fluoride homopolymer,

said fluorocopolymer is one resulting from polymerization of a perfluoro(alkyl vinyl
ether) and/or ethylene or one not resulting from such polymerization,

said fluoropolymer is one of which polymer terminal groups are $\text{-CF}_2\text{H}$ and not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms,

said fluoro-polymerised material contains or does not contain a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element, and

the mass of said alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element is not greater than 2 ppm of said fluoro-polymerised material.

8. (original): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 7,
wherein the fluoropolymer is a product obtained by emulsion polymerization.

9. (currently amended): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 7-~~or~~ 8,
wherein the fluoropolymer is a fluorocopolymer derived from tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene.

10. (original): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 9,
wherein the fluorocopolymer derived from tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene is a fluorocopolymer having a tetrafluoroethylene unit content of 75 to 95% by mass, a hexafluoropropylene unit content of 5 to 20% by mass and a perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) unit content of 0 to 5% by mass.